

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 01622 300037 Z

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SUBJECT: 15 TH SESSION ECLA: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

FOLLOWING IS CONFERENCE ROOM PAPER NO. 22 -

DRAFT RESOLUTION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CO- SPONSORED

BY CHILE, EL SALVADOR, ECUADOR, MEXICO, TRINIDAD AND

TOBAGO, BOLIVIA, CUBA, PERU AND NICARAGUA.

DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS REQUESTED ASAP.

BEGIN QUOTE:

THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA,

CONSIDERING THAT ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IS THEIR TECHNOLOGICAL DEPENDENCE, WHICH,
WITH ITS ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS, AGGRAVATES THEIR PERIPHERAL
POSITION AND PERPETUATES THE PRESENT INTERNATIONAL DIVISION OF
LABOUR, OBLIGING SUCH COUNTRIES TO ADOPT, ON UNFAVOURABLE
CONDITIONS AND TERMS, TECHNOLOGIES WHICH ARE IN MANY CASES
UNSUITABLE FOR THEIR STRUCTURES OF PRODUCTION, AVAILABILITY OF
RESOURCES, AND THE NATURE OF THEIR DOMESTIC MARKETS,

FURTHER CONSIDERING THAT SUCH DEPENDENCE ALSO HAS A POLITICAL

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PAGE 02 QUITO 01622 300037 Z

DIMENSION, INASMUCH AS IT WEAKENS THE DECISION- MAKING CAPACITY OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BY PREVENTING THEM FROM EXERCISING EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER THEIR DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES,

NOTING THAT ECLA HAS DEALT WITH SOME OF THESE SUBJECTS IN ITS STUDIES AND ACTIVITIES BUT HAS SO FAR LACKED MACHINERY TO ENABLE IT TO LINK THE ADVANCE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MORE CLOSELY WITH ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT,

BEARING IN MIND THAT THE UNITED NATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPMENT (UNACAST) HAS FORMULATED A REGIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA, WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE WORLD PLAN OF ACTION AND THE SECOND DEVELOPMENT DECADE, AND THAT THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA (ECLA) IS RESPONSIBLE FOR PROMOTING ITS DISCUSSION AND IMPLEMENTATION AT THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS,

1. DECLARES:

(A) THAT IT IS CONVINCED OF THE VITAL NEED FOR THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY SUITED TO THE NEEDS, POSSIBILITIES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES OF THE REGION, BEARING IN MIND THE PRIORITIES LAID DOWN IN THEIR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND PROGRAMMES;

(B) THAT THE TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COMPONENT MUST CONTRIBUTE EFFECTIVELY TO SECURING FULL UTILIZATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES, SO THAT THEY CAN BE TRANSFORMED AND ADAPTED TO MEET THE SOCIAL NEEDS OF THE LATIN AMERICAN POPULATION;

(C) THAT THE ADVANCE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ESPECIALLY THE STRENGTHENING OF ITS INFRASTRUCTURE, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, AND THE APPLICATION OF EXISTING KNOWLEDGE, MUST CONTRIBUTE TO THE IMPROVEMENT NOT ONLY OF THE ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF LIVING, BUT ALSO OF THE SOCIAL ASPECTS IN SUCH FIELDS AS EDUCATION, HEALTH, HOUSING, NUTRITION AND PUBLIC HEALTH;

2. REQUESTS THE ECLA SECRETARIAT TO CONVENE A MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF GOVERNMENTS, COINCIDING IF POSSIBLE WITH THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE STANDING CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL COUNCILS FOR SCIENCE POLICY AND RESEARCH OF UNESCO' S UNCLASSIFIED

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